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**Stomach Movements.**<sup>1</sup>—One of the most interesting papers in the last number of the *American Journal of Physiology* is that by W. B. Cannon on the movements of the stomach studied by Röntgen rays. Animals, chiefly cats, were fed upon food containing a small amount of bismuth subnitrate, which, being opaque to the rays, brings the form of the stomach clearly to view and thus allows the movements of normal digestion to be observed with ease. The cardiac portion of the stomach acts as a reservoir, in which, however, salivary digestion probably goes on. The pyloric portion is the seat of continuous constriction waves, which course from near the middle of the stomach to the pylorus. These thoroughly mix the food with the gastric juice, triturate it, and at intervals discharge some of it into the intestine, this operation being kept up till the stomach is empty. A very remarkable condition observed was that the stomach movements were almost instantly inhibited whenever the cat showed signs of anxiety, rage, or distress—a practical hint as to post-prandial occupations.

G. H. P.

**Paired Fins of Fishes.**<sup>2</sup>—In the last number of the *Jenaische Zeitschrift*, Dr. H. Brans gives an exhaustive account of the innervation of the paired fins of selachians, holocephala, and dipnoi. About half the paper is taken up with detailed anatomical descriptions, the substance of which is clearly summarized in a concluding table. The remainder of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the origin of vertebrate extremities, in which the author defends with some show of reason Gegenbaur's archipterygium theory and attempts to refute the more usually accepted theory of the continuous lateral fin. The paper is refreshing in that its author claims that in the settlement of morphological questions comparative anatomy should have a hearing as well as embryology.

G. H. P.

**Anatomy of Salpa.**<sup>3</sup>—Dr. M. M. Metcalf has published as a "separate" a paper of some twenty-six pages on the eyes and sub-neural gland of Salpa. The histology and embryology of the eyes in

<sup>1</sup> Cannon, W. B. The Movements of the Stomach, Studied by Means of the Röntgen Rays. *The American Journal of Physiology*, vol. i, pp. 359, 382, 1898.

<sup>2</sup> Brans, H. Ueber die Innervation der paarigen Extremitäten bei Selachiern, Holocephalen und Dipnoern. Ein Beitrag zur Gliedmassenfrage. *Jenaische Zeitschrift*, Bd. xxxi, pp. 239, 468, 1898.

<sup>3</sup> Metcalf, M. M. The Eyes and Subneural Gland of Salpa. The Friedenwald Co., Baltimore, 1898.